

Community Workshop Group: Summary

HISTORY: The Community Workshop Group was originally proposed in April 2010, based on discussions between various KAUST residents in the Labs, Academic areas, The KAUST School and other residents. A public meeting was held on April 18, 2010 at which community members voiced support for a Workshop where hands-on activities could take place. When the Art and Ceramics Groups were proposed, the fact that there were similar interests in the Art/Craft area of “Woodworking”, and the Jewelry and Art Metal area of “Metalworking” and that there were similar tools involved, led to a combining of all these areas together in an early proposal. At the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year, it was suggested, on the advice of the Self-Directed Group people at KAUST, that the Workshop areas be a separate group.

The original Community Workshop approach has been updated and both a proposed Charter and a startup Equipment Budget have been completed.

SCOPE: The proposed Community Workshop Group includes interests from several different areas that have strong hands-on, constructivist properties:

- a. - Woodworking
- b. - Metalworking
- c. - Electricity / Electronics learning, experimentation, repair
- d. – Personal Computer Building, upgrade and repair
- e. - Model Making

These areas often have a lot to do with each other. As many of us at KAUST have learned, most really interesting problems and projects are multi-disciplinary. There seems to be no good reason for separating these hands-on areas into different self-directed groups. And sharing space, tools and knowledge seems a win-win situation.

WORKSPACE: It appears from a first-pass investigation that one of the available rooms in the ECC2 “Island Oasis” building can provide adequate space for the proposed activities. Obviously any larger metalworking projects involving welding and cutting would have to find another space, but most projects could be handled well. Any larger boatbuilding activity (a popular request) would have to find another space. But the nucleus of workspace, tools, information and personal collaboration would work well in the ECC2 space.

COORDINATION: There are always overlaps that can be taken advantage of.

Fixtures for Ceramics, and picture frames for Art and Photography Groups could be best made in the Workshop space.

The Cycle Club can hold Bike Repair sessions and use some of the tools in the Workshop.

There will probably be general Computer classes and use of computers in the Photography Group Room, but people wanting to assemble, upgrade and experiment with computers can do that in the workshop where partially-completed projects will exist, and tools and equipment are available.

The Photography Group can document and help publicize the activities of the other groups, and so forth.

The officers of the different groups can effectively coordinate and capitalize on these opportunities.

KAUST has many different Labs and disciplines of Research in different but somewhat overlapping and collaborative areas. Many of the KAUST Self Directed Groups have a similar quality.

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